

Paul Jones

Nantes December 23^d 1797.

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Gentlemen

Your esteemed favor of the 17th I have received. — I wish to leave the Ranger in such a situation as to expect to find her — nearly ready for sea on my return — as I think it will be for the interest of the Service that I should then proceed with her alone unless an Additional force can be very soon procured. — should circumstances admit — an Additional force may be prepared, in my absence, without any foundation for suspicion. — These sentiments I submit to you with becoming deference to your Superior Wisdom. I shall have the honor of paying you my personal respects soon after the appearance of this — therefore shall only add that I am Gentlemen, with sincerity,

Your very Obedient

very Obedient

most humble servant

Paul Jones

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